

To: Bohan, Suzanne[bohan.suzanne@epa.gov]
From: Morning Consult
Sent: Tue 1/31/2017 1:09:46 PM
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Ebell Expects Trump to Pull Out of Paris Agreement

By Jack Fitzpatrick

Washington Brief

- Myron Ebell, who led Trump's EPA transition team, said he expects Trump to pull out of the Paris climate agreement, saying his supporters "would prefer not to have a seat at the table." ([Bloomberg News](#))
- President Donald Trump signed an executive order requiring the White House to rescind two regulations for every one that is added, drawing complaints from supporters of Environmental Protection Agency regulations, among others. ([The Washington Post](#))
- A lawyer for the Army Corps of Engineers said he did not know when the corps would issue a construction easement for the Dakota Access pipeline as mandated by Trump's recent executive order. ([The Hill](#))

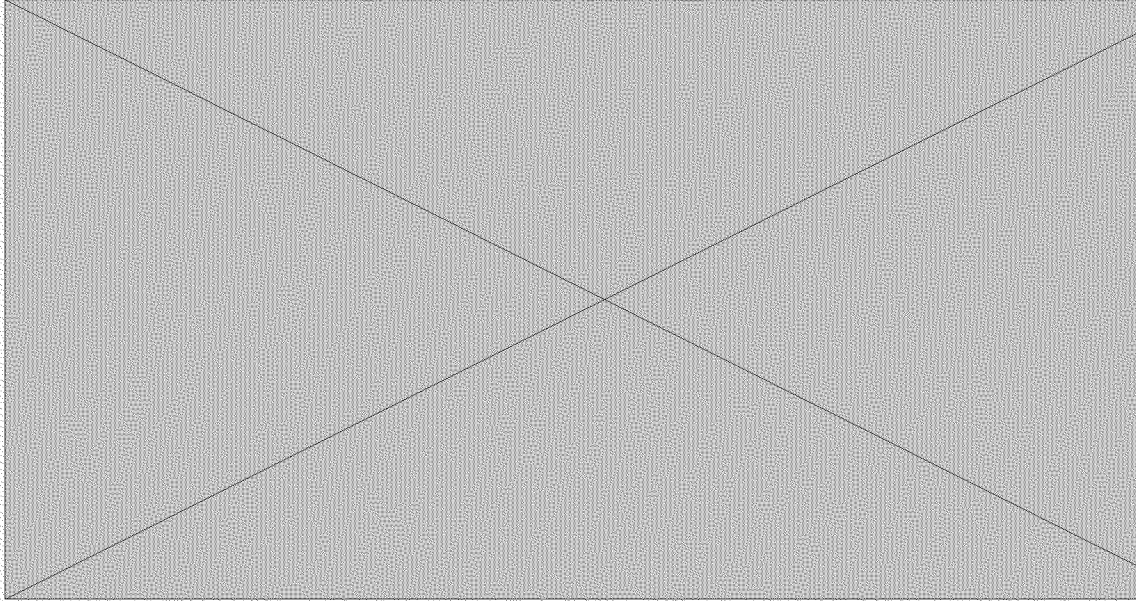
Business Brief

- Royal Dutch Shell agreed to sell offshore oil and gas assets in the North Sea to Chrysaor for \$3.8 billion, and in Thailand to the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company for \$900 million. ([Financial Times](#))
- Bangladesh's energy minister said the country's government is hiring a firm to assess Chevron's natural gas fields there before making an offer to buy the assets. ([Reuters](#))
- Brent crude oil futures rose 0.11 percent to \$55.29 while West Texas Intermediate futures dropped 0.29 percent to \$52.48 as traders awaited data on countries' compliance with the OPEC deal to cut output. ([The Wall Street Journal](#))

Chart Review

Natural gas-fired generating capacity likely to increase over next two years

U.S. Energy Information Administration



Events Calendar (All Times Local)

Tuesday

<u>Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee votes on Zinke, Perry nominations</u>	9:30 a.m.
<u>House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee organizational meeting</u>	10 a.m.
<u>Atlantic Council discussion on Transatlantic energy cooperation</u>	10 a.m.
<u>CSIS discussion on deep decarbonization efforts</u>	10 a.m.
<u>U.S. Energy Association State of the Energy Industry Forum</u>	10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

<u>BP energy outlook</u>	9:30 a.m.
<u>House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing on grid security</u>	10:15 a.m.
<u>Senate Environment and Public Works Committee votes on Pruitt confirmation</u>	10:45 a.m.

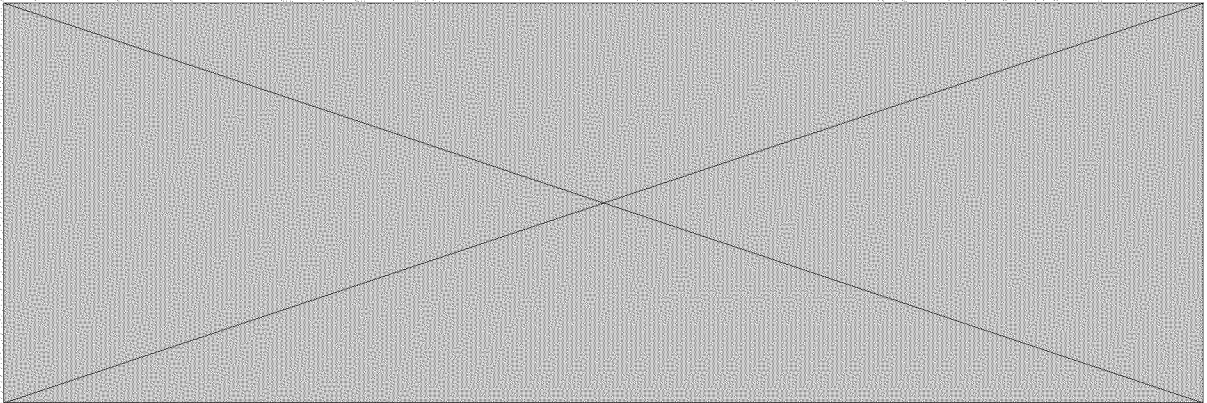
Thursday

Friday

No events scheduled

Journalists' guide to energy and environment

3 p.m.



General

Trump wants to scrap two regulations for each new one adopted Steven Mufson, The Washington Post

President Trump signed an order Monday aimed at cutting regulations on businesses, saying that agencies should eliminate at least two regulations for each new one. The White House later released the text of the order, which added that the cost of any new regulation should be offset by eliminating regulations with the same costs to businesses.

Trump administration lifts temporary freeze on EPA grants Brady Dennis, The Washington Post

The Trump administration has lifted a temporary freeze on billions of dollars of grants from the Environmental Protection Agency, saying the programs will continue as planned. An email sent late Friday from the EPA's acting administrator, career official Catherine McCabe, informed staffers that officials had completed a review of the agency's extensive list of grants and that all "are proceeding normally, and nothing has been delayed," including revolving grants to states and Native American tribes.

Scientists, Lobbyists Fret Over EPA Climate Change Data Under Trump Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult

Scientists and energy industry lobbyists are concerned they won't be able to access key data from the Environmental Protection Agency after political

appointees are done reviewing the agency's website. Officials will finish their review this week or next, and won't rule out deleting public links to the agency's data on climate change, Doug Erickson, a spokesman for the Trump administration's transition "beachhead team," told Morning Consult on Monday.

President Trump Has Not Yet Chosen Science Advisor **Justin Worland, Time**

President Trump has issued a series of executive actions linked to a range of scientific issues since taking office earlier this month, but he has yet to name a science advisor. Formally known as the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the science advisor is responsible for consulting with scientists inside and outside of government to ensure the President has the best available information on any policy issue related to science.

Bush-era official seen as front-runner for No. 2 slot **Robin Bravender, Greenwire**

A high-ranking George W. Bush administration Interior Department lawyer could soon be making a comeback as the agency's No. 2 official. David Bernhardt, who served as the department's top attorney under Bush and worked on the Trump transition team, is the front-runner to become Interior's next deputy secretary, according to a source close to the Trump administration.

U.S. lawmaker moves to scrap SEC resource extraction' rule **Sarah N. Lynch, Reuters**

A senior U.S. lawmaker unveiled a legislative plan on Monday to scrap a rule devised under the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial reform law requiring publicly-traded mining, oil and gas companies to disclose payments they make to foreign governments. Michigan Republican Bill Huizenga, who chairs the House of Representatives Financial Services subcommittee on capital markets, took aim at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's so-called "resource extraction" rule, saying it makes it harder for U.S. energies companies to compete.

Bonds Slump as Inflation Tilts Investors Toward Stocks **Garfield Clinton Reynolds and Christopher C. Albritton, Bloomberg News**

European bonds fell and stocks rose as inflation data prompted investors to switch into assets that may benefit from a regional economic revival. Gold advanced as Donald Trump's firing of the U.S. acting attorney general added to concern over the unpredictability of decisions in the new administration.

Oil and Natural Gas

Shell sells North Sea oil assets Debt reduction push Andrew Ward, Financial Times

Royal Dutch Shell has struck deals worth up to \$4.7bn to sell offshore oil and gas assets in the North Sea and Thailand, adding momentum to the debt-reduction programme launched after its \$50bn takeover of BG Group. The Anglo-Dutch group said on Tuesday it had agreed to sell a package of UK North Sea assets to Chrysaor, a small British company backed by EIG Partners, a US private equity company, for up to \$3.8bn.

Bangladesh to bid for Chevron assets After assessing reserves Ruma Paul, Reuters

Bangladesh is hiring an international firm to assess reserves at Chevron Corp's natural gas fields in the country before placing a formal bid to buy the assets, its energy minister told Reuters on Monday. Energy-starved Dhaka meets half of its gas needs through the three Chevron-operated fields at Bibiyana, Jalalabad and Moulavi Bazar in the northeast of Bangladesh, highlighting their importance for the poor country.

Oil Prices Mixed as Market Awaits OPEC Production Data Kevin Baxter, The Wall Street Journal

Oil prices were mixed Tuesday ahead of official data from OPEC expected later in the week regarding compliance with agreed production cuts from members of the cartel. The March contract for global benchmark Brent gained 0.11% to \$55.29 a barrel while March deliveries of its U.S. counterpart West Texas Intermediate fell 0.29% to \$52.48.

Analysts See Oil Prices Rising as Production Cut Bears Fruit Georgi Kantchev, The Wall Street Journal

Analysts are raising their oil-price forecasts for the first time in five months, even as they continue to see a plethora of risks for this market. Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other big producers said this month that they are abiding by their historic agreement last year to cut production.

Utilities and Infrastructure

Lawyer: No timetable for allowing access construction Devin Henry, The Hill

A government lawyer said Monday that he didn't know when the Army Corps of Engineers will issue a construction easement for the Dakota Access pipeline, a move mandated by an order from President Trump. Trump ordered the Army Corps last week to issue an easement allowing construction on the most controversial stretch of the 1,170-mile \$3.8 billion Dakota Access Pipeline.

Donald Trump increases pressure on pipeline makers, his latest industry target Tom DiChristopher, CNBC

President Donald Trump on Monday reiterated his insistence that pipeline makers use U.S. materials when they build projects in the United States, a sign that he will keep pressure on companies in the middle of the energy sector. In a meeting with small business leaders, Trump clarified that he not only wants pipeline companies to purchase pipes fabricated in the United States, but also expects the pipe suppliers to use raw U.S. steel.

Trump Ordered An Expedited Dakota Access Pipeline Review. But Feds Don't Know How Long It Will Take Zoe Tillman, BuzzFeed News

The US Army Corps of Engineers doesn't know how long it will take to "expedite" its review of the Dakota Access pipeline following President Trump's executive actions last week on the topic, a lawyer from the US Department of Justice told a federal judge on Monday. Pressed by the judge to at least provide a timeframe for when the Army Corps would know how long the review will take, the lawyer said he didn't know that either.

Tesla Gives the California Power Grid a Battery Boost Diane Cardwell, The New York Times

Just off a freeway in Southern California, 396 refrigerator-size stacks of Tesla batteries, encased in white metal, have been hastily erected with a new mission: to suck up electricity from the grid during the day and feed it back into the system as needed, especially in the evening. The installation, capable of powering roughly 15,000 homes over four hours, is part of an emergency response to projected energy shortages stemming from a huge leak at a natural gas storage facility.

Renewables

Developer accuses Duke Energy of restricting solar power deals John Downey, Charlotte Business Journal

Cypress Creek Renewables says Duke Energy has abruptly decided to refuse long-term power-purchase agreements for larger, utility-scale solar projects in violation federal and state law. The California-based solar company filed a formal complaint against Duke with the N.C. Utilities Commission Friday afternoon.

Mission Solar slashing 170 jobs Rye Druzin, San Antonio Express-News

San Antonio-based renewable energy company Mission Solar is laying off 170 employees, more than half of its current workforce, according to a notice sent to the state. The Workforce Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) notice dated Jan. 27 says 170 employees will lose their jobs effective March 31.

Smokies solar grid project moved Karen Chavez, Asheville Citizen-Chronicle

The N.C. Utilities Commission public hearing on a Duke Energy solar grid project planned in the park has been canceled. No complaints or concerns were voiced to the Utilities Commission or to Duke Energy, leading to the cancellation and a green light for the project to move forward.

Coal

Slowing Climate Change Will Require More Carbon Capture, Study Says Zahra Hirji, Inside Climate News

Countries must radically scale up their use of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies soon or risk missing the targets of the Paris climate agreement, new research suggests. The authors of a study published on Monday in the peer-reviewed journal Nature Climate Change examined how big countries are approaching the daunting task of attaining the treaty's central goal-keeping the world well below 2 degrees Celsius of warming since the industrial era.

McConnell pushes for action on coal-mining rule

Devin Henry, The Hill

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) pledged Monday to undo a coal-mining rule issued in the closing days of the Obama administration. McConnell introduced a Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution blocking the Interior Department's Stream Protection Rule, days before the House is set to vote on a similar measure.

Nuclear

Nuclear fuel debris possibly found inside reactor at Fukushima No. 1 Kazuaki Nagata, Japan Times

Tepco on Monday found what may be melted nuclear fuel debris inside reactor 2 at the Fukushima No. 1 plant. Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc. said it needs more analysis and investigation before confirming that the black lumps at the bottom of the reactor's containment vessel are indeed fuel debris.

Three upstate New York nuclear plants get new life, but Indian Point to close The Associated Press

New York is betting big on the future of three aging upstate nuclear plants - even as it moves to close a nuclear facility closer to the city. The three facilities upstate include Nine Mile Point in Oswego, which shares the distinction of being the oldest operating nuclear plant in the country.

Japan's 'Unresolved' Disaster Spurs Nuclear Advocate of Nuclear Power Stephen Stapczynski and Emi Uchida, Bloomberg News

The man blocking the world's largest nuclear plant says he grew opposed to atomic energy the same way some people fall in love. Previously an advocate for nuclear power in Japan, Ryuichi Yoneyama campaigned against the restart of the facility as part of his successful gubernatorial race last year in Niigata.

Climate

Trump Likely to Withdraw From Paris Climate Pact, Ebell Says Jessica Shankleman and Joe Ryngaert, Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump is likely to pull the U.S. out of the landmark Paris climate pact, according to a former adviser. Myron Ebell, who headed Trump's Environmental Protection Agency transition team, told reporters in London that the president had made a number of "clear black and white" promises on climate and energy during his campaign.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

[A Climate Change Economist Sees a Warning Alarm](#)
Mark Buchanan, Bloomberg View

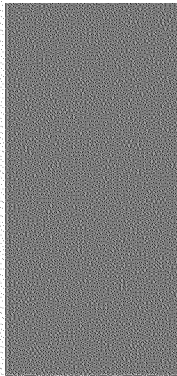
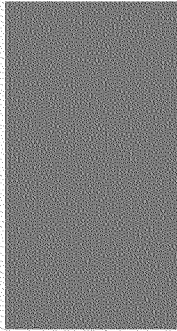
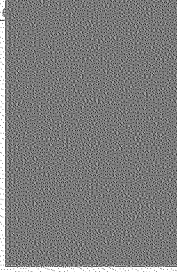
Yale's William Nordhaus finds that our current response to global warming is probably inadequate to prevent temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius above their pre-industrial levels, a stated goal of the Paris accords. Worse, the analysis suggests that the required carbon-dioxide reductions are beyond what's politically possible.

Research Reports

[Vigorous lateral export of the meltwater from beneath an Antarctic ice shelf](#)
Alberto C. Naveira Garabato et al.

The instability and accelerated melting of the Antarctic Ice Sheet are among the foremost elements of contemporary global climate change. The increased freshwater output from Antarctica is important in determining sea level rise, the fate of Antarctic sea ice and its effect on the Earth's albedo, ongoing changes in global deep-ocean ventilation, and the evolution of Southern Ocean ecosystems and carbon cycling.

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